

TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF SHIFT FROM AGRICULTURE TO OTHER NON FARM OCCUPATION AN ANALYSIS IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Youths can make their constructive contribution to national development and through which society can benefit from the idealism and the sense of dedication of youth at the same time, they also get benefitted from their active participation in development activities, since such participation increases their self esteem, gives them a sense of identity. India has rich rural youth potential. The population of rural youth in developmental activities contribute to national development. Several studies confirm that there exist shifting patterns in the occupation of rural youth from agriculture to other nonfarm activities. A study was taken up "To measure the impact of the shift from agriculture to other nonfarm occupation in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu". Hence, in this study an analysis was made in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu with 120 sample rural youth respondents. Nearly 80.83 per cent of the rural youth expressed that there is no much difference in the purchasing power due to shifting and their property acquisition also has slightly increased and 76.66 per cent expressed that there is no much change was observed.

KEYWORDS : Agriculture, Activities, Impact, Rural Youth, Shift & Tamil Nadu

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INTRODUCTION

The youths are the most vital human resource of the nation on whom the present and future of the country depend. The youths of today are the hopes of tomorrow and they are the backbone of the country. Development of youth determines the progress of the country. The socioeconomic development and prosperity of rural areas depends to a considerable extent, on the type of youth living in rural areas, because the rural youth have abilities to orient themselves to go along the main stream of the development process. In our country, youth constitute a numerically dominant potential, resourceful and also adventures segment of the population. More than 50.00 per cent of India's current population is below the age of 25 and over 65.00 per cent below the age of 35. The population in the age group of 15-34 increased from 351 million in 2001 to 430 million in 2011. Current predictions suggest a steady increase in the youth population to 464 million by 2021. By 2020, India set to become the world's youngest country with 64.00 per cent of its population in the working age group (The Hindu April '17, 2013). In India, the rural youth population accounts for 68.84 per cent of the national population.

According to Dugbazah (2008) indicated that rural-urban migration had a profound influence on village communities, as more men than women left the rural areas, leaving imbalances in sex-ratios, particularly among

working age groups. She further stated that the consequences of rural-urban migration on agriculture is important for the sustainability of agricultural livelihoods in the villages. The extent of the impact, however, depends on various factors, including the seasonality of movement, length of time spent away, an ability to maintain labour inputs and to invest productivity in agriculture and the availability of social structure allowing women to strategize and pursue diverse livelihoods effectively.

In the process of shifting from agriculture to other non-farm activities they experience diversified constraints. There is lot of studies on the shifting from agriculture to other non-farm activities. Vidhyasagar (2002) stated that on an average, a Rajasthani migrant contribute about Rs 20,000 to the households' income. Thus migration was thought to improve the situation of the household very much (79.00%), or a little bit (11.00%). There was an idea among some respondents that the migrants used to send more money. In 14.00 per cent of the cases the migrant did not or only rarely support the household, according to the main respondents. The remittances were used for general purposes (the respondents did not identify particular purposes) and in almost all cases the whole household was said to benefit. In half of the cases, the migrant also received support.

According to Gowsami (2009), internal migration, forced by dire economic need has been a commonplace in India and is increasing. The 2001 census of India broadly determined that 309 million persons had moved in the previous ten years from the place of origin, an increase of 37.00 per cent from the 1991 census. The movement has been encouraged by the annual GDP growth rates of 8.00 per cent and the rapid growth of cities and towns. As India's middle class expanded, their need for informal labour rose and it has been fulfilled by the steady exodus from rural India.

Hence, in this study an attempt has been made with the main objective to measure the impact of shift from agriculture to other non-farm occupation in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. Coimbatore district consists of twelve blocks and out of these, Annur and Karamadai blocks were purposively selected based on the maximum area under agricultural crops and rural youth population. Apart from the above factor, Karamadai block is situated adjacent to Erode district and Annur block is very closer to Tirupur district. Erode and Tirupur districts are famous for textile industries and these district provide enormous employment opportunities for rural youths of neighboring districts. Hence the possibility of moving to rural youth from these blocks to these adjacent districts is more. Hence, these two blocks were selected for the present study. Three villages from each block were selected based on the discussion made by the officials of the State Department of Agriculture of the respective blocks. Totally 120 respondents were selected from the study area by employing the proportionate random sampling method. Percentage analysis was used to get a meaningful interpretation of the results.

FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

An attempt was made to measure the impact of shifting from agriculture before shifting and the period after shifting. The details on the income of migrants before and after shifting were gathered from the respondents in terms of rupees. A comparison was carried out between the income before and after shifting. The paired t - test was worked out and the results are depicted in table 1.

Direct Impact

Table 1: Income Generation of Rural Youth

(n= 120)

S. No	Category	Means	SD	SE
1	Income generated before shifting	2.58E4	7320.298	772.419
2	Income generated after shifting	4.48E4	24574.059	2540.072
3	Mean difference	1.901E4	17253.761	1767.653

t = 22.557

It would be understood that the difference between the mean values of income generated before and after shifting is found to be little higher. Thus the income generated as a result of shifting has slightly increased compared to that income generated before shifting. This may be due to the income generated by individual is used to meet the expenditure of the whole family for running day to day life.

Employment Generation

A comparison was carried out between the employment generated before and after shifting in terms of number of mandays. The data on employment generated before and after shifting was gathered from the respondent and paired t-test was worked out. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Employment Generation of Rural Youth

(N= 120)

S. No	Category	Means	SD	SE
1	Employment generated before shifting	151.68	32.816	3.459
2	Employment generated after shifting	252.13	46.235	4.874
3	Mean difference	100.45	13.419	1.415

t- Value = 23.724

It could be understood that the difference between the mean values of employment generated before and after shifting differed significantly. During the researcher's interaction with the respondents during the field visit and survey, they reported that on an average an individual was employed for more than 50 to 75 man days after shifting. Thus the employment generated after shifting has slightly increased compared to the employment generated before shifting in man days. The overall analysis of income generation due to shifting indicated that there is no much difference was found in the income due to non agricultural jobs. The result indicated that the possibility of attracting and retaining the rural youth in agriculture.

Indirect Impact

The indirect impact was assessed as increased and no change was presented in table. The results obtained on indirect impact are presented in table 3.

Table 3: Indirect Impact

(n= 120)*

S. No	Impact	% Increase after Shifting		No Change After Shifting	
I	Indirect Impact	No	Percent	No	Percent
1	Purchasing power	25	20.83	97	80.83
2	Self confidence	45	37.50	54	45.00
3	Property of acquisition	19	15.83	92	76.66

Table 3: Contd.,					
4	Social responsibility	55	45.83	41	34.16
5	Skill, knowledge	56	46.66	43	35.83
6	Good health condition	54	45.00	45	37.50
7	Decision making ability	64	53.33	59	49.16

*Multiple responses

It could be observed from the table that 80.83 per cent of the rural youth expressed that there is no much difference in the purchasing power due to shifting. Only 20.83 per cent of the farmers indicated that due to shifting slight increase was observed in the purchasing power. Nearly 38.00 per cent of the respondents expressed that their confidence level was boosted due to the shifting and 45.00 per cent of the respondents expressed that there is no such change observed. It could be observed from table that 15.83 per cent of the respondents reported that due to raise in the income, their property acquisition also has slightly increased and 76.66 per cent expressed that there is no much change was observed.

About 35.00 per cent of the respondents reported that due to the shifting there is no change was observed. But 45.83 per cent of the respondents told that it increased their social responsibility. It could be observed from table that 35.83 per cent respondents reported that due to the shifting no change was observed in skill and knowledge. 46.66 per cent of the respondents felt that it has increased their skill and knowledge. About 45.00 per cent of the respondents reported that shifting has increased their health condition due to the availability of hospitals and infrastructure facilities. It could also be inferred that the about of respondents (53.33 per cent) expressed that it has increased their decision making ability. At the same time about 50.00 per cent of the respondents expressed that no change in the decision making.

CONCLUSIONS

The income generated after shifting has been found to increased when compared to the income generated before shifting. Increased employment generation after shifting has been reported and was found to be statistically significant too. They also insisted the need for a holistic approach to educate the young farmers with all the necessary skills required to succeed an agricultural entrepreneur. This helps the rural youth in gaining confidence and empowerment which facilitate the young people to continue in farming activities.

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